

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 1-11 and 23-34 are withdrawn. Claims 12-22 are rejected.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration as follows.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-15, 18, 19, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Roy WO 01/16589 in view of Wade U.S. Patent No. 3,703,255.

As established in the accompanying declaration of Pierre Seigny under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, the invention claimed in the application was invented prior to March 8, 2001, which is the publication date of Roy. Therefore, Roy is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

The application claims priority to U.S. Application Serial No. 10/091,549 filed on March 7, 2002. Roy published on March 8, 2001. Therefore, Roy is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Roy and the application have common inventors and, therefore, are not "by another." As such, Roy is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Because the primary Roy reference is not prior art to the present application under the applicable sections of 35 U.S.C. §102, it is not properly applied in an obviousness rejection. Applicants respectfully request the rejections under this section be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Roy in view of Wade, and further in view of Robache U.S. Patent No. 6,282,870. Applicants respectfully disagree for the same reasons analyzed above.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Roy in view of Wade, and further in view of Kartman U.S. 3,703,255. Applicants respectfully disagree for the same reasons analyzed above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants assert the application is in condition for allowance. Extension fees are simultaneously being paid by electronic funds transfer. If other fees are deemed necessary, the Office is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative with questions.

Respectfully submitted,
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